

AGAIN LIGHT GOWNS

Here Are Things to Wear
in Southern Climes.

MANY EFFECTS IN BORDERS

Guesses at Spring Modes From
the Paris Frocks.

The Flowered Thin Stuffs Unusually Pretty—New Meaning Taken On by the Plaid Gingham—Variety in the Bordure Designs in Cotton Goods and Foulards—Attractive Color Schemes—Indications That the Skirts of the Coming Spring Will Be Fuller and That the Straight Lines Will Continue to Be Fashionable—Fresh Popularity Predicted for the Bare Throat Idea.

The woman who is worn out by Christmas shopping always ends the old year firm in the faith that she is going to shun the shops for weeks to come, but the first week in January always finds her on the old trail and full of enthusiasm. The merchants know how to whistle



BORDERED CHIFFON.

her back, and it is a firm woman who can resist the white sales and remnant sales and fur sales and all the myriad sales of early January. All the feminine world goes a-buying as gayly as though there had never been groans of fatigue and vows of total abstinence from shopping.

Muslin underwear and table linen really do not exhaust one as did the presents for family and friends, and if some woman is overtired for the lure



MULL AND OPENWORK.

of the sales she cannot resist the first showing of summer materials, the frocks and hats for summer wear, the shrewd guesses at future modes which may give her light on the subject of making over last summer's frocks and scheming new ones if the seamstress is coming early before the spring modes are crystallized.

One is thankful for that January display of flowered muslins and sunshades and straw hats. It may be provided for the lucky folk who can seek their summer wherever and whenever they will, but it is vastly reassuring to those who must bide here and wait the laggard feet of spring. One feels a lyric lilt at the sight of the first organdy akin to that which comes with the first bluebird, though the poets persistently overlook the organdies in their spring rhapsodies, and unless a woman is very wise and very self-controlled or quite bankrupt after her Christmas shopping she is likely to buy all sorts of materials on her first January round of the shops which she won't really need or want later on.

One plump and pretty woman who always wears white or plain one tone materials or fine stripes in summer and avoids plaids or flowered stuffs as she would the plague invariably goes forth the first week of January and sends home flowered organdies and cotton voiles and dimities and plaid gingham which are as invariably given away later on when reason returns.

"I can't help it," she groans each January. "They do look so beautifully springy that they go to my head and make me forget I am fat."

Probably many a woman will make the same mistake this month, for the flowered thin stuffs are amazingly pretty, and plaid gingham has taken on a new meaning, so beautiful and subtle are the colorings blended in the plaids. And if



GOWNS OF DARK BLUE CREPE METEOR, OF WHITE BATISTE AND BLUE SILK AND OF LINON AND OPENWORK.

one escapes the flowers one is sure to fall a victim to the borders and then spend sleepless nights scheming how to make up a bordered wash frock so that it will be good looking and yet launder easily and well.

Bordered soft materials such as chiffons, etamines, mulls, &c., are not such a problem. One can full the sheer soft skirt and leave the border at bottom or one can drape the material, but when it comes to tub material with a decided body in spite of the modish softness a border is a trying proposition, and it is well for women to take time for reflection before the natural yielding to temptation consequent upon the quantity and charms of the new bordure materials.

In the fine cotton voiles and etamines, which long ago ceased to belong in the list of cheap cotton materials, bordure effects are particularly dominant, and in the beautiful silk and cotton or fine mercerized cottons the same thing is true. Exquisite floral borders, narrow or wide; deep borders in soft, beautifully blended Oriental colorings; borders formed of deep bands in one color, but

many shades of that color, the shades separated by tiny hairline cords in the tone of the material; wide borders of white finely embroidered and set into colored mercerized cotton of a texture resembling pineapple tissue; borders of openwork embroidery in material of the same color—but there is no use attempting to describe the bordered stuffs. One must see them to know their beauty.

Embroidered white swisses or those of white ground embroidered in dots or sprigs of delicate color and narrowly bordered in a floral design of the same delicate color are among the prettiest of the bordered cottons, and there are delightful striped batistes with similar narrow borders.

Among the inexpensive cottons charm of design and coloring is as ubiquitous as among the more expensive stuffs. One soft, fine cotton voile of white ground was sprinkled with tiny dots of pink and bordered with two inch wide floral bands, one of prim little pink daisies and gray green foliage on a white ground, the other of little white daisies and foliage in the same prim design on a pink ground. This was only sixty cents a yard, and at the same price was another delectable cotton voile with little ring dots of light blue on a white ground and a narrow border composed of a quarter inch band of black and above this a two inch band of tiny floral garlands design in rose and blue and violet.

The dimities, always serviceable and cool looking if not so soft as the voiles and mercerized cottons, are certainly prettier than they have ever been. Hosts of dainty floral designs, chiefly in diminutive size, are shown, but perhaps the smartest of the dimities this season are in striped and dotted designs of charming colorings.

Much is done with the soft yellow or buff tones combined with white which came to the front last season and are so deliciously cool looking, despite the established tradition that yellow is a hot color. The tradition stands so far as most of the plain yellow tones go, but there is a line of yellows on the corn or buff shadings which in combination with white loses all its suggestion of sun and sultriness.

Not only in the dimities but among the better qualities of gingham, where it is a newcomer this coloring is prominent. Small checks, broken checks and stripes in this buff and white gingham suggest particularly chic little summer morning frocks and one imagines them with becoming collars of finely embroidered batiste and a smart touch of black in cravat or girdle.

There are peculiarly pretty green and white and violet and white effects among the gingham and other cottons and in

several materials, gingham among others, there are yellow and green as soft and delicate which were really charming and quite new. Certain combinations of soft blues and lavenders and of lavenders with rose or cerise tones echo lines of coloring prominent in the winter frocks and are happy when unerringly handled, though a mistake in the values is fatal to success.

Changeable colorings are considerably emphasized among the sheer mercerized cottons but seem hardly so successful in this regard as are the franker color contrasts.

Linens so far show nothing new save certain colorings which were new this winter and consequently were not included among last summer's linens. There are many of the buff, gold, tawny yellow and brown tones, and here the warmth of color already referred to in connection with the yellows is frequently in evidence.

Almost all of these yellow brown shades in linen are beautiful, but one cannot help feeling that on a hot day many of these browns and yellows would make the average complexion look flushed and hot. This might be said too of a lovely line of pinkish light browns which figures in the linen colorings, but surely as colors the new linen colorings are remarkably successful.

The few hints that come in Riviera and Palm Beach frocks and that have been given in recent Parisian theatrical premises supply little upon which to build up a theory of spring modes. There is literally no telling at the moment what

changes the modish line will undergo, but there seems to be a general conviction among dressmakers and importers that the general silhouette will not change radically, that the shortened waist line will endure and that while the skirts will show fullness it will be fullness dragged down into straight lines as it has been, though without the more extreme narrowness.

Practically all of the new models are built up along these lines; but then, of course these new models are simply to fill in between seasons and to meet the Southern demand. Not until the Riviera season is in full swing will any radical experiments be shown that will indicate the direction in which the fancies of the great makers are turning.

The suit coats on the latest French models have lengthened, and it seems that the dressy afternoon frocks are lengthening, too. One sees more trailing folds and little trains, and while it isn't so comfortable or convenient the long skirt is certainly more becoming for any dressy wear.

If the skirts lengthen they must of course widen, for the very narrow skirt bottom is possible only in the distinctly short skirt. On the whole it seems safe to wager that the very narrow straight skirt has passed its heyday of popularity and will be dropped even by the extremists; the conservatives have never accepted it in its pronounced phases.

The straight, narrow lines not over-accentuated and the shortened waist line are very pretty in the one piece trotting frocks of linen, silk, &c., which are being made up for Southern wear, though the Empire waist line must always be handled very carefully in connection with a street frock if it is not to give the frock an air suitable to the boudoir rather than the street.

The dark blue crepe meteor model of the central group is a good example of a proper handling of this problem and would make a most practical little hot weather frock for trotting or travelling. A number of smart little frocks are to be found on these general lines and in dark blue or black. Some of them of course have guimpes and collars, but the bare throat idea promises to have even a greater popularity this summer than it had last year, and it behooves the woman who hasn't already bleached and massaged her throat to go to work on it now.

The quaint but rather trying neck line running from the base of the throat or a little below in the front straight across to the shoulder, so that the cut is really lower on the shoulder line than anywhere else, has gained favor this winter and one sees it in a number of the new spring models.

A white linen frock pictured in the large cut gives one version of this neck line and shows too an admirable use of fine openwork embroidery in combination with

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EYELET EMBROIDERY.

vivid but beautiful changeable green and yellow silk of high lustre. There is a great deal of openwork embroidery, and one sees the old favorites, Irish, Cluny and Valenciennes, well represented; but there is a noticeable mingling of a lace and heavy lace and embroidery, beautiful motifs of Venetian worked in among Valenciennes and embroidered net or linen, &c.

Yoke and sleeves of openwork or of lace and embroidery cut in one are used with bodices and skirts of plain material after the fashion seen in other materials this winter, and not yet can be heard the death knell of the kimono sleeve's long popularity; but one cannot tell what spring may bring.

MONGOOSES AS PETS.

Dainty Creatures Full of Pink and Devotion.

An English woman living in the Philippines became the delighted possessor of some pet mongoses. "Never," she says in the *Eastern and Western Review*, "were there three more engaging creatures than those sweet little baby mongoses."

"They had the shy roguery and playfulness of kittens; the agility and courage of weasels; the friendliness and devotion of dogs—in a word, they were the most perfect companions imaginable."

"The mongoose is a long, supple animal, with ferret's body, a thick, fawn colored furry coat and the loveliest large pathetic brown eyes I ever saw in the head of any animal."

"A big cage was made for them out of a packing case, set up in the hall and fitted with a front of wire netting. A few perches of rough twigs set sloping for them to run up and down on and a box filled with cotton wool sufficed for a home for them."

"At once they were at home, and when not asleep in their cotton wool nest would scurry about their cage, clambering to be let out with a curious gurgle, piping cry, some notes of which were very sweet and soft, closely resembling the jingling of a nightingale, while the louder scale ran up to a cry like a London cab whistle. "After we had had the little mongoses a day or two we ventured to let them out, when they instantly dispersed and disappeared."

"Once found, they were as tame as puppies, and after that first release we became accustomed to their ways and they to ours, and we got to know that wherever we were the dear little creatures would soon come to us and begin climbing up us as if we were trees and play about the branches with shrieks and whistles of joy."

"In time they were privileged to be out of the cage all day long, and went running about the house, squeaking when they thought they were lost, when we had to go and find them, and they would crawl up their rescuer and snuggle down to sleep on some ledge quite safely and happily."

"They had the sweetest little innocent faces I ever saw, and boundless pluck and plenty of character; being, indeed, easily distinguishable by little fads and manners. Little Pinkie, for instance (so called from the color of her nose), would not go near water, while her sister every morning regularly climbed the side of my bath and fell in and had to be fished out and dried. Billy was an inveterate hunter, but did not go far afield."

"Two of the little creatures died and then the third, Pinkie, could hardly bear to let me out of her sight. But whatever happened to the mongoses they never went to any one but my husband or myself, never taking the least notice of visitors and resolutely refusing to have anything to do with the servants, though the latter fed them and were very fond of animals, and very kind to them, as all unspoiled Filipinos. It was this quality of personal devotion which constituted the doglike characteristics of our dear little mongoses and made them unlike any other pets except dogs."

Yield of One Pennsylvania Oak.

From the *Philadelphia Record*.
The largest oak tree in Huntington township, Adams county, was cut last week by the lumberman John K. Sander. The tree was five feet across the stump and took the men several hours to place it prostrate. Eleven large and three large wagon spokes were taken from the trunk and twelve cords of wood were cut from the top and branches.

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